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Tenbury
Rural District Council



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector

1943

TENBURY RURAL DISTRICT

NAMES OF PARISHES.						COUNCILLORS.
Bayton	...	...	...	...	...	M. WYER
Bockleton		...	...	...	...	MISS PRESCOTT
Eastham	...	...	...	...	...	K. D. BRIGGS
Hanley	....	...	...	...	...	E. KERBY
Knighton-on-Teme		...	...	...	...	J. BATLEY
					...	REV. A. P. RANDLE
Kyre	...	...	...	...	...	HERBERT POWELL
Lindridge	...	...	...	...	{	G. BALLARD
						C. H. C. PARTRIDGE
Mamble	...	...	...	...	...	MRS. F. K. THOMAS
Pensax	...	...	...	...	...	H. J. NEATH
Rochford	...	...	...	...	...	W. G. MAUND (Chairman)
Stanford with Orleton	...	...	...	...	...	REV. J. B. HEWITT
Stockton	...	...	...	...	...	CAPT. A. ASTLEY JONES
Stoke Bliss	...	...	...	...	...	H. COOPER
						REV. J. A. CHESTERTON
						C. HAYWOOD
Tenbury	...	...	...	...	{	M. G. ROLLO (Vice-Chairman)
						HENRY JONES
						W. MIDDLETON

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health	...	...	GEORGE JOHN EADY, L.M.S.S. A. Lond.
Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor, Waterworks Engineer	...	...	J. E. PARKINSON, Cert. S.I.B.

TENBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

To the Chairman and Members of the Tenbury Rural District Council.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Report for the year 1943.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	31,250
Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population, mid 1943							5,890
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1943				...	...		1,671
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£18,138
Sum represented by a Penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£77 4s.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The District comprises fourteen parishes and is entirely rural in character except for the market town of Tenbury. Agriculture, including fruit and hop growing, is the chief industry and provides work for the majority of the adult male population.

A varying number of men are employed at a number of small coal pits on the borders of the area.

During the Autumn months the population is increased by fruit and hop pickers, mostly women and children, who are brought into the district and accommodated in special quarters on the farms.

There are many small holdings in the area, and the amount of unemployment varies very little.

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	32	46	78
Illegitimate	4	8	12
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	...	...	15.2
Birth Rate for 1942	...	...	17.5
Birth Rate for England and Wales, 1943	...	...	16.5
STILL BIRTHS	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	2	0	2
Illegitimate	1	0	1
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)	...	...	32.2
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) births, 1942	...	...	27.5
DEATHS	Males	Females	Total
	41	49	90
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population			15.2
Death Rate for England and Wales, 1942	...	...	11.6

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES:

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	0
Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	0

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS under one year of age :

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	11.1
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	12.8
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	83.3

Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales was 49 per 1,000 live births.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	15
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	...	...	...	...	0

The total Deaths registered were 90, as against 92 in 1942.

CAUSES OF DEATH

					Males	Females
1	Typhoid Fever, etc.	...	...	...	0	0
2	Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	0	0
3	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	0	0
4	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	0	0
5	Diphtheria	...	...	...	0	0
6	Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	...	1	0
7	Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	0	0
8	Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	0	0
9	Influenza	...	...	...	0	1
10	Measles	...	...	...	0	0
11	Acute Polio-myelitis and P-encephalitis	...	...	...	0	1
12	Acute Infective Encephalitis	...	...	...	0	0
13	Cancer of Mouth, Oesoph (M.), Uterus (F)	...	...	...	1	3
14	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	0	2
15	Cancer of Breast	...	...	...	0	1
16	Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	7	1
17	Diabetes	...	...	...	0	0
18	Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	...	...	...	1	4
19	Heart Disease	...	...	...	14	15
20	Other Dis. of Circulatory System	...	...	...	1	2
21	Bronchitis	...	...	...	7	4
22	Pneumonia	...	...	...	2	0
23	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	1	0
24	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	1	0
25	Diarrhoea under two years	...	...	...	0	0
26	Appendicitis	...	...	...	0	0
27	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	0	0
28	Nephritis	...	...	...	1	1
29	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	0	0
30	Other Maternal Causes	...	...	...	0	0
31	Premature Birth	...	...	...	0	0
32	Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries, etc.	...	...	...	0	1
33	Suicide	...	...	...	0	0
34	Road traffic accidents	...	...	...	0	0
35	Other Violent Causes	...	...	...	1	3
36	All other Causes	...	...	...	3	10
TOTAL					41	49

The Average Age at Death was 69.3 years.

Males 68.3 years. Females 70.1 years.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

During the year I received notifications of the following cases :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	19
Diphtheria	...	...	...	2
Measles	...	...	...	83
Acute Pneumonia	...	...	...	3

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

In carrying out my duties as Medical Officer of Health of the area I have the assistance and co-operation of Mr. J. E. Parkinson, who has been Sanitary Inspector of the area since May, 1932, and who is also Water Engineer for the area.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The County Council Laboratory at Worcester is available for the bacteriological and chemical examination of pathological specimens and samples of water, is freely used, and is of great value to the district.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

There is an ambulance attached to the Tenbury Hospital which is available for work throughout the area.

For Infectious Diseases an ambulance is supplied by the Worcester Isolation Hospital.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

There are five District Nurses in the area, who also act as Midwives and carry out the duties of Health Visitors.

Two of these Nurses live at the Tenbury Hospital, the other three residing in outlying parishes, and their work is so apportioned as to cover the entire area.

There are also two other practising Midwives in the area.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRE.

There is a Voluntary Infant Welfare Centre which is held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at the Vicarage, Tenbury, from 1.30 p.m. till 4 p.m.

As Tuesday is Market Day in Tenbury, this enables mothers from the villages and farms around to avail themselves of the adequate 'Bus and Rail services on those days and of transport by other vehicles driven in to the market.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

Immunisation of children against Diphtheria has been carefully explained to parents throughout the area and constantly brought forward and has been very well accepted.

At the close of the year, 83 per cent. of children under five years of age and 98.4 per cent. of the children between five years of age and fifteen years had been immunised.

HOSPITALS.

The Tenbury Hospital is quite close to the town, and though, being on the other side of the river, it is actually in Burford, Salop, it is managed and supported chiefly by the town and district of Tenbury.

The Hospital has fifteen beds for medical and surgical cases and one cot, and is very well equipped.

For Infectious Diseases the Worcester Isolation Hospital is used.

The Public Assistance Hospital at Kidderminster is also available, and for Maternity Cases the County Council provides accommodation in three Maternity Hospitals.

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1943								
Age Period	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5								
15								
25			1					
35	1	1						
45					1			
55								
65								
	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0

There were only two notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, one male and one female, both adults, and there was one Death, a male adult.

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 relating to persons suffering from Tuberculosis employed in the Milk Trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

There were on the Register at the end of the year the following cases of Tuberculosis :—

PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY	
Male	Female	Male	Female
9	6	7	5

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. WATER.

The town of Tenbury is supplied with water from the Council's mains. The source of this supply is situated at Clee Hill, the water being drawn from the Millstone Grit formations there.

A connection between the Birmingham water conduit from Elan Valley and the Tenbury intake chamber gives a supplementary supply. The effects of increase or decrease in the rate of intake from Tenbury's source can be rectified by the turn of a valve on the supplementary supply connection.

As regards the rural parts of the district, in which there is not a sizeable village, although there are a few small private piped supplies, generally the mode of supply may be said to be by Wells and Springs.

There have been no complaints of shortage of water.

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The increasing number of water-closets in Tenbury is making the provision of outfall works for the treatment of the sewage before it enters the stream a matter of importance.

A change of the system from pail closets to the water carriage system is now due.

3. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Appended to this Report is a classified statement of the number of houses visited, the defects and nuisances discovered and the action taken and result of action in regard to these by the Sanitary Inspector.

One hundred and sixty-seven houses were visited during the year, and seventy-five informal notices were served, all of them being complied with. A large amount of very useful Sanitary work was carried out and a safe water supply secured at a number of premises.

HOP PICKERS' ACCOMMODATION.

Many visits were paid by the Sanitary Inspector and myself to the quarters provided for Hop Pickers, both before and during the hop picking season.

The quarters were on the whole quite satisfactory, and the Pickers were well cared for. An important factor contributing to this is the fact that in all cases the quarters provided for the Hop Pickers are situated close to the homes of the Hop Growers.

Apart from two cases of Diphtheria, which were visited promptly, injected with serum and transferred to the Isolation Hospital, the health of the Pickers and their children was very good.

A system of portable warm shower baths was instituted, and 338 children received baths and greatly enjoyed them.

SCHOOLS.

There were 83 cases of Measles and 19 cases of Whooping Cough during the year, but there were no school closures.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

GEORGE JOHN EADY,

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR

WATER SUPPLIES. TENBURY WATERWORKS.

At the beginning of the year the rate of intake of water from the source at Studley was well below normal. On the 17th March, I found the supply in Tenbury town to be discoloured and that the trouble was general throughout the area of supply. On inspection at the source, I found that the rate of intake had suddenly increased to over 90,000 gallons per day (more than double the previous day's rate). Along with this sudden increase had come large quantities of precipitated iron, showing that the supply had been dammed up for a long period, probably by water plants, roots or other growth in the sub-drain which conveys the water from its underground source in the Clee Hill. However, whatever the cause of the partial chokage in the sub-drain, such chokage had been at a distance beyond that capable of being rodded.

The increased supply was maintained for some time and then came a gradual falling off until it was found necessary to again supplement the supply by using water from the Birmingham Corporation's conduit. The decrease in the supply from Tenbury's source this time was due to drought.

During the year, 4,530 yards of water mains on the Tenbury supply system were scraped—Court of Hill to the Reservoir, 3,370 yards, Kyre Brook to Kyrewood and a length in Cross Street, 1,154 yards. With an increasing consumption rate in Tenbury district, a proper supply could not have been maintained if the gravity main between Court of Hill and the Reservoir had not been scraped. If the consumption rate in Tenbury should at all increase, it may be necessary to make some alteration to the gravity main which carries the water from the source to the reservoir. The main is somewhat restricted in its carrying capacity because a part of its length is laid in a very undulating track and that it is not wholly within the hydraulic gradient. A diversion of a portion of the main through lower contours and to a less uneven grade, which is possible, would increase the velocity of the flow and improve the rate of supply to the reservoir.

Several samples of the Tenbury town water were sent for chemical and bacteriological examination during the year and were found to be of good quality.

874 visits were made in connection with the Tenbury Water Supply apart from the night inspections and soundings made for the detection of waste and leakage.

The results of the examination of a sample of Tenbury town water taken in March and another sample taken in September are as follows :—

ANALYSIS—TENBURY TOWN WATER—MARCH, 1943.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERS. Slightly opalescent yellow, odourless.

Deposit, slight brown. (Microscopically : vegetable fibres and ferric hydrate).

CHEMICAL EXAMINATION. (Results expressed in parts per 100,000).

Solids in suspension (Dried at 100 C)	...	...	...	Trace
Solids in solution (Dried at 100 C)	...	...	...	13
Solids in solution. After ignition	...	...	...	10
Chlorides calculated as Common Salt	...	...	...	2.3
Hardness. Permanent	...	...	...	5
„ Temporary	...	...	...	3
„ Total	...	...	...	8
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	...	0.002
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	0.001
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	...	...	...	Trace
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	...	...	...	None
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27 C	...	...	...	0.03
Toxic Metals	...	...	...	None detected

NOTE.—To convert the above parts per 100,000 to grains per gallon multiply by 0.7.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Number of Colonies developing upon Agar :—

(a) In two days at 37 C	...	...	...	4 per one m.l.
(b) In three days at 22 C	...	...	...	20 per one m.l.
Coli-Aerogenes (Presumptive Coli) Count	...	...	...	Nil per 100 m.l.
CL. Welchii	...	...	...	— per —
Streptococci	...	...	...	Absent

The sample is fit for drinking.

ANALYSIS—TENBURY TOWN WATER—SEPTEMBER, 1943.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERS. Clear, odourless.

Deposit : Very slight brown.

CHEMICAL EXAMINATION. (Results expressed in parts per 100,000).

Solids in suspension (Dried at 100 C)	...	...	...	Slight trace
Solids in solution (Dried at 100 C)	...	...	...	11
Solids in solution. After ignition	...	...	...	8
Chlorides calculated as Common Salt	...	...	...	2.3
Hardness. Permanent	...	...	...	4
„ Temporary	...	...	...	2
„ Total	...	...	...	6
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	...	0.0008
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	0.0006
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	...	...	...	None
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	...	...	...	None
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27 C	...	...	...	None
Toxic Metals	...	...	...	None detected

NOTE.—To convert the above parts per 100,000 to grains per gallon multiply by 0.7.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Number of Colonies developing upon Agar :—

(a) In two days at 37 C	...	...	...	...	Nil per one m.l.
(b) In three days at 22 C	...	...	...	...	2 per one m.l.
Coli-Aerogenes (Presumptive Coli) Count	...	...	...	...	Nil per 100 m.l.
CL. Welchii	...	...	...	...	— per —
Streptococci	...	...	...	...	Absent

The sample is fit for drinking.

OTHER WATER SUPPLIES.

Ten samples of water from private Wells were examined, five of which were found to be defective in quality and necessitating action for remedy.

HOUSING. COUNCIL HOUSES.

The Council have now 116 occupied houses in their district. During the year, the work of erecting 12 cottages under the new scheme for housing agricultural workers was commenced—six cottages in the parish of Kyre, four in the parish of Hanley and two in Bayton. The cottages are to be of the parlour type and semi-detached. Whilst the water supply to the cottages at Kyre and Hanley will, for the time being, be from Wells, those at Bayton will have a piped supply from the private Main which supplies Bayton village. The reservoir in connection with this supply is to be enlarged, to increase the capacity by 5,000 gallons.

HOUSING. PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.

Plans for the erection of two cottages for agricultural workers in the parish of Lindridge were approved and also an application for Grants under the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1938 in respect of them.

HOUSING. (OVERCROWDING).

Not a great deal could be done with regard to cases of overcrowding because of conditions arising out of the War and the restrictions placed upon new building work and reconditioning.

OTHER NEW BUILDINGS.

A School Canteen was erected at Bromyard Road, Tenbury. The Canteen will provide the cooking facilities for the Schools.

DANGEROUS STRUCTURES. (PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936).

Three dangerous structures were dealt with during the year.

RIVERS POLLUTION PREVENTION.

A case of serious pollution of a watercourse was dealt with. The source of the trouble was found at a Coal Pit in the district where a "Scrubber" belonging to a Wood—Gas producing plant was discharging the used "scrubbing-water" to a ditch; the ditch emptied into the larger watercourse from which domestic water supplies other than drinking supplies were taken. The Colliery management immediately complied with a request to abate the trouble.

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

ERADICATION OF BED-BUGS.

Bed-Bug infestations are uncommon in this district, but during the year three cases in a row of condemned but occupied cottages were dealt with.

FLEA INFESTATIONS.

A rather sharp flea infestation in an old worn out cottage had to be given several treatments.

RODENT CONTROL.

An offer by the County Council of delegation of powers under the Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919, was accepted late in the year. By a Direction from the Ministry of Food under the Infestation Order, 1943, a survey of rat infestations on premises other than agricultural premises was made. A number of infestations mostly of the minor type and chiefly in the town of Tenbury were dealt with.

In this district, where regular, full-time long period employment for rat destruction cannot be offered and where casual labour is difficult, if not impossible to find, progress with the destruction of rats may be slow.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Twenty-four visits were made in connection with the surveillance and control of infectious diseases and five premises were disinfected.

SCAVENGING AND HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION.

House refuse collection was carried out in two parishes in the district, i.e., Tenbury and Lindridge. In Tenbury town, collections are made on three days each week and in the Oldwood district of Tenbury once every two months. In Lindridge the collections are made three monthly.

Collections of night-soil from pail-closets in Tenbury are made in the early mornings, and during the year approximately 7,000 pails were emptied. About 20,000 dustbins, etc., were emptied.

In Bayton parish, arrangements were made for the use of a disused colliery site for the disposal of domestic refuse by the villagers.

PARTICULARS OF OTHER SANITARY MATTERS DEALT WITH.

HOUSE DRAINAGE.

Number of drains laid or relaid ...	...	...	...	6
Number Trapped, Ventilated and Repaired	...	...	...	3
Number of obstructed drains dealt with ...	...	...	...	14
Number of house drains tested ...	...	...	...	9

WATER CLOSETS.

Number of Defective W.C.'s remedied ...	...	...	...	8
Number of additional W.C.'s put in	3

EARTH CLOSETS.

Number of defective earth-closets remedied	16
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OFFENSIVE ACCUMULATIONS dealt with	10.
Animals kept so as to be a nuisance	2
Nuisances arising from dampness	...	...	...	3.

FOOD.

MILK.—There were in the district 98 registered producers, 60 of whom were also retailers. The number of small producers is rather high and the district not a large dairying one. A number of defects to the structures, lighting, and ventilation of cowsheds and to surroundings were dealt with.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES. Except for emergency slaughter, the six slaughter-houses in the district were not used. Meat is supplied from a Central Abbatoir outside the district. Butchers' premises were regularly inspected as also were the vans which conveyed the meat into the district.

MEAT. During the year 140lbs. of meat were surrendered and destroyed as unfit for consumption.

OTHER FOODS. 92lbs. of other foodstuffs were found to be unfit and destroyed.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. E. PARKINSON,

Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor, Waterworks Engineer.